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MAY 02 2000

To: Allen Fiksdal
EFSEC manager
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

From: Mark Porter
8883 Frost Rd.
Sumas, WA 98295
WnMPorter@msn.com

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Re: Sumas Energy II Power Plant

Dear Mr. Fiksdal,

I am a resident of Sumas and a parent of children in the Nooksack School District.

The people of Sumas do not want the Sumas Energy II Power Plant. This is very evident in light of the two E.I.S. public hearings held April 3rd, 2000 in Bellingham and April 4th, 2000 in Sumas.

There are too few positives and many major negatives surrounding this project.

The positives: 1) A substantial long term tax base including a 1-2 million dollar annual income for the town of Sumas and 1-2 million dollar income for the Nooksack school district.

This sounds great, but the costs are way too high.

The negatives: 1) The tax exemptions proposed are not fair or equitable. The state's exemption program requires one full time job created for every \$750,000 invested. Sumas Energy II would cost \$1,000,000 for each of the only 24 jobs created.

2) The air quality in the Fraser Valley is the 3rd worst in Canada. This is due to the topography of the Fraser Canyon and the massive growth of the "lower mainland" of British Columbia. This project should be dropped for this reason alone. It's time to cut back on the causes of air pollution, not add to it.

3) The consumption of 2 million gallons of water daily from the Sumas/Abbotsford aquifer is unacceptable. Local farmers (who at times employ more workers than this plant will) will quite possibly lose their water table, which they have owned rights to for decades. Plus it eliminates the possibility of new, clean industry being established for the next 20 years by taking away their rights to water. Also, waste water would be sent across.

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- the border to be treated and then released into the Fraser River. This is in serious question because sewer treatment does not remove many contaminants such as heavy metals.
- 4) The power line issue is not a new one. There is plenty of circumstantial evidence to document detrimental health effects. We do know that, no one can say there are no health risks. We also know that they ruin the fair market value of property, both farmland and residential.
- 5) To elevate the plant site to one foot above flood plain will take 188,687 ton, or almost 6000 truck and trailer loads. There are two problems with this: A) Gravel mining is already controversial in Whatcom county. Where will it come from? Another big pit in our county? More water tables ruined? B) If you experienced the flood in 1990, you would know that the flood waters channel right through downtown Sumas. By adding this fill, it would displace that same mass (below flood level) of water into downtown Sumas. This would make the flood waters higher than what would be normal, causing greater property damage.
- 6) A 2.5 million gal. diesel fuel oil storage tank would be installed as a back up fuel source for the plant. There are two problems with this: A) We live in an induction earthquake zone. This produces the worst type of earthquakes possible, with the most cataclysmic damage. Retention berms or dikes would not survive, nor would the tank. This would create an unrepairable environmental disaster. It would ruin the groundwater table, all surface water, including creeks, rivers and would reach the Fraser River in British Columbia. If it were to catch fire, which could easily happening the event of an earthquake, the results would make the Olympic Pipeline disaster minuscule. B) To even consider using diesel fuel oil as a backup fuel source is foolish, considering that the air pollution created would be exponentially worse than the primary fuel source (natural gas).

We do not need, do not want, and cannot have this plant. The negatives so far outweigh the positives, that the positives should not even be considered. Listen to the people who would have to live with and be affected by this plant. To support this project would guarantee loss of voter support in the Suma area and those affected by the transmission lines along two swaths across Whatcom county. My vote is definitely being swayed.

Sincerely,

Mark Porter
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